HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section *Printed in Two Sections*

Secret History Of A Heartbeat: In the past forty-eight hours, much has leaked out concerning the cause of the President's coronary thrombosis. A number of observers, including the staff of HUMAN EVENTS, now find confirmation of their recent fears. (Twice within the present year, on March 5 and September 17, HUMAN EVENTS judged information received about the President's health of sufficient value to pass on to readers.)

The fact — which cannot now be ignored — is that Ike has suffered from high blood pressure for many years. Medical men term his complaint "essential high blood pressure" (or "hypertension") as distinguished from "malignant high blood pressure" which almost always results fatally within a short time. "Essential high blood pressure," if the patient exercises care, can go on for years without unpleasant symptoms; indeed, some patients live as long as any normally healthy individual. Often patients feel little concern, for they experience few symptoms and actually look and feel quite well. However, the trouble does impose a strain on the heart (as well as the kidneys) and sometimes results in a coronary or other heart ailment. Besides giving medication physicians usually urge on their patients a number of precautions. One is "take it easy," and don't indulge in very active physical exertion. Thereby hangs a tale.

Several months ago — we learn from reliable medical sources — physicians taking the President's blood pressure discovered that it was around 230/125. Administration of *rauwolfia serpentina*, the latest promising drug prescribed by doctors for hypertension, failed to reduce this reading. Such a high reading is usually taken very seriously by physicians who thereupon urge much greater caution on their patients. In the case of the President, his medical advisers reportedly gave him quite a lecture. This occurred just before the President's celebrated speech to Ohio Republicans, who drew the inference from the President's words that he might not run in 1956. But unfortunately the President did not act on one specific recommendation from his medical advisers.

The medicos, in short, urged Ike to cut down on his golf. The President reportedly protested, saying that he did not tire himself by walking, that he covered the course on a scooter. The doctors reportedly retorted, in substance, "that's not enough — your drives and long shots could be just as dangerous." Despite this lecture, the President did not moderate his golf, he shot that final 27 holes — and it happened.

From the above, observers draw two lessons: (1) That the old cover-up of presidential physical trouble — so flagrantly practiced about FDR's condition in 1944 — has been going on again and should no longer be tolerated. The public should be given all the implications of the President's real condition, regardless of its political implications. (2) The fact that the President had a history of high blood pressure preceding his coronary suggests the need of additional caution in the future. That means complete rest from duties. Otherwise. . . .

Aftermath: News of the coronary and widespread assumption that consequently the President would not run for re-election had several significant repercussions:

(1) There are 48 State GOP parties, each with its state committee and chairman. A phone call to a political figure in one state brought the com-

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ment: "The boss and the state committee last week were goose-stepping in the direction of Denver. This week, they are on their own, they know it and show a new independence." If similar manifestations have not occurred in many other states — those who watch politics here will be very surprised.

(2) For 24 hours after the first news of the President's misfortune, talk in the Capital was all about Vice-President Nixon. The name of Sherman Adams, Assistant President, was not mentioned. But soon that ambitious but highly unpopular man returned to Washington from a vacation. He is reportedly opposed to a delegation of the President's powers to the Vice President. A new factor — the White House Palace Guard seeking to hold on to its jobs as long as possible — must now be taken into account in the developing complicated situation.

(3) Senator Knowland returned early in the week to the Capital. Significantly, he said he was making several speeches soon — in North Carolina, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York. If the President indicates he will not run, Knowland will loom as an important aspirant for the nomination. While in Washington, the California Senator got word from Senator McCarthy that the latter would back him. Also, a number of influential figures in various states — Taft men who have been ignored by Sherman Adams — have suddenly taken a very active interest in Knowland.

(4) One story going the rounds concerns General Snyder, the President's physician. It is rumored that Snyder right along has felt that Ike did not want to run again. His genuine concern for the President's happiness may tip the scale — it is felt here — in a momentous decision to retire and take care of himself.

Truman Memoirs: Harry is running true to form in the self-serving installments now appearing in the *Times*, say veteran observers. His failure in the haberdashery business — writes the ex-President — was caused "by the [deflationary] policies of Andrew Mellon, Harding's Secretary of the Treasury." The facts are that the collapse in farm prices took place in early fall of 1920 during the Wilson Democratic Administration and about six months before Harding and Mellon took office (on March 4, 1921).

Harry maintains he paid his debts in full. Pegler has offered evidence that many of the claims against Truman were paid off at a few cents on the dollar. In other words, this Truman assertion appears to be as phony as his insistence — in retrospect — that he knew Harry Dexter White was a spy, but retained White in office so that he could be watched.

Also in his memoirs, Truman seeks to give an impression of his great grasp of the European situation when he took office in April, 1945. Others offer quite a different version. A party of Senators, including Burton K. Wheeler of Montana and Albert Hawkes of New Jersey, returned from a survey of Europe just when Truman was preparing to attend the crucial Potsdam conference. They went to the White House to tell the new President their findings. Wheeler voiced their sentiments when he said: "Harry, the greatest danger that looms before Europe today is Russia and Communism." Harry replied: "You're dead wrong about that, Burt. I know that the greatest danger to Europe today isn't Russia and Communism at all — it is the British Empire."

The more Harry writes — such is the current comment here — the deeper he digs his own grave.

Academic Freedom: Staff members of Congress are stirred by the case of Professor Herbert Fuchs of the law faculty of American University, Washington, D. C. The university authorities have moved to oust Fuchs from his post, after the professor freely and fully testified to the House Un-American Activities Committee about his former Communist membership and associations in the party. The testimony he gave is considered by veteran investigators to be the most significant as to the extent of the Communist Party in Government since the days when Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth Bentley testified on the Hill in 1948.

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Representative Gordon Scherer (R., O.) of the House committee claims that Fuchs testified after receiving a promise from the University President that he would not lose his position. Scherer says that Fuchs, in an effort to make amends for his former Communist activities literally "told all;" that he had been a member of Communist cells in Government service from 1934 to 1946 and named several score of government employees as Communist party members. This is obviously what security agents have been wanting; Chambers unbared the workings of one cell in Government and claimed that there had been several more cells. Ever since, information on the latter had been a major objective of probers.

The Ohio congressman points a dread moral to the tale by contrasting the Fuchs case with the story of Professor Wendell Furry of Harvard, who was cited for contempt for refusing to name his former Communist associates. Yet, Harvard retained him on the faculty. Fuchs who took the patriotic course now suffers because he was a thorough-going penitent.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, management and circulation, required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933 and July 2, 1946. Published weekly at Washington, D. C. for October 1, 1955.

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FRANK C. HANIGHEN, Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1955.

NETHA L. HEALY
Notary Public, District of Columbia

Commission expires May 31, 1958

On the Hill, it is noted that there reigns silence in "liberal" quarters; the liberals usually raise a clamor over "academic freedom" in defense of Fifth Amendment Communists. Nor has the Fund for the Republic (see last week's article) taken any stand on this case of infringement of academic freedom, despite the Fund's professed concern about such matters.

Situation In Germany: Despite the fact that German Chancellor Adenauer accomplished little during his trip to Moscow, there are no signs that his political power in Germany has slipped. A professional international observer, who had known Germany well during the pre-Hitler and Nazi regimes, writes us — after a recent trip to that country — the following comments which offer some explanation of this enigma:

"Adenauer's power is still very great. It is due in large part to the fact that the German people are politically 'numb,' at present. Each individual thinks of his own problems exclusively, without reference to the future of the country. They do not show national pride, nor patriotism. Youth dislikes the idea of serving the new projected Army. For instance I talked to two sons of a famous German general; they said they would rather enter the American armed forces than become officers in a German Army.

"German energies are absorbed almost exclusively by efforts to come back economically. Creative art, music and literature are negligible. This situation is attributed in part to the fact that there are few Jews left in Germany today. Jewish writers and artists sparked the cultural life before Hitler came into power. This absence of the ever-fermenting Jews also probably contributes to the political 'numbness' of the German people, the low level of vigor in the competition of parties — which, in turn, is related to the comparative serenity of the political situation and to Adenauer's retention of power.

"Other phenomena strike the foreign visitor. Tremendous reconstruction of cities; also tremendous tasks yet to achieve in this field. Ten years work remain to complete the work of effacing the last war's devastation. Meanwhile, modernization of industry is spectacular, and

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motorization of the country proceeds rapidly. Prevalence of the cheap Volkswagen and the big role of the Autobahnen impresses the visiting American."

Texas Reign of Terror — By Whom? Last month, the CIO-AFL business agents met in Dallas to unify their political efforts. Ralph Yarborough, who ran against Governor Allan Shivers in 1954, climaxed the convention with these impassioned words:

> **"Texas is in the clutches of powerful influences that unashamedly seek to wreck the business of any businessman who opposes them, and which seek to fire any laborer, schoolteacher, clerk, or other wage-earner who does not bow his knees to their bidding."**

Lynn Landrum, columnist for the Dallas *Morning News*, commented: "Yarborough demonstrated his fright, horror and appalled dismay of soul while making his speech in the auditorium of Southern Methodist University. He defied the economic lightning, but at last reports, he was still safe. His bank account was safe. His right to practice law was safe. Even his right to run for office again was unquestioned. And every CIO chieftain and AFL organizer in his audience of 200-odd victims of economic terror went home and to bed and slept soundly all night."

In 1954, Yarborough was supported by the CIO, so naturally he did not mention the CIO's own reign of terror. During the CIO's 72-day strike against the Southern Bell Telephone Company serving Texas and other southern states, more than 3,000 bombings or cable cuttings occurred. Damage from sabotage to Southern Bell property exceeded five million dollars. Five telephone offices were closed by mobs.

Yarborough did not remind his listeners that he had been backed for the governorship by George Berham Parr, "The Tyrant of Texas," who rules Duval County, Texas. The population, heavily Mexican and terrorized by 200 gun-toting *pistoleros* masquerading as deputy-sheriffs, vote 40 to 1 as Parr dictates. Whenever anybody in the region attempts to oppose Parr, punishment is speedy. If a worker, his employer may be ordered to fire him. The assessment on his real estate may be doubled or tripled. A bomb may be exploded in his front window. Ruffians may crack him over the head — fatally, if need be, to silence him.

In statewide elections, Parr holds back the Duval vote until the rest of the state has reported. In 1948, Governor Coke Stevenson was ahead for the U. S. Senate when all the returns had come in except for the Parr precincts. When they reported, Lyndon Johnson — now known in Texas as "Landslide Lyndon" — became the winner by 87 votes.

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Letter from CRAIG R. SHEAFFER, Chairman, W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company: "I am indebted to HUMAN EVENTS for factual enlightenment on many political issues. I find that you penetrate beneath the surface in a way that reflects sadly by comparison on the correctness and genuine news gathering ability of much of our press and also the wire services."

FRANK C. HANIGHEN, *Editor and Publisher* JAMES L. WICK, *Executive Publisher*
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Article Section

POCKETBOOK PATRIOTS

The Consequences of Foreign Aid

By HOWARD BUFFETT

BACK IN THE days of vaudeville circuits, actors ate regularly if they were able to satisfy the paying customers. The usual test was the amount of applause their performances generated. Applause meters being unknown, the sharp theater manager, wherever he was in the house, kept one ear cocked for the response from the audience as each act was on stage. Accordingly, clever actors developed ingenious strategems designed to bring loud and sustained applause.

The scurviest, yet most successful of these tricks was composed of a sidle to one of the wings, a quick grab of a carefully planted American flag, followed by a bombastic flag-waving march around the stage while the orchestra blared The Stars and Stripes Forever.

This pitch was practically foolproof. The yokels in the audience whooped and hollered furiously, equating individual patriotism with the loudest and most sustained applause. Disgusted intelligent customers who would have liked to disapprove by silence, or even to give the ham the "raspberry," didn't dare do either. They realized that such behavior would probably be considered disrespectful of the flag and hence unpatriotic. So even they would join in the response.

Fortunately the advent of movies and TV has saved our children from this pocketbook patriot of Gay Nineties vaudeville. But today all American citizens constitute a captive paying audience for a modern adaptation of this flag-waving trick. The stage is Washington, D. C. and the actors are the politicians and their business and labor confederates who annually drive through Congress a multi-billion foreign aid levy against our earnings.

AT FIRST GLANCE, a comparison of the ham-actor's phoney patriotic trick with foreign aid may seem an unwarranted and harsh appraisal of those responsible for these annual giveaways. Yet even a quick check of a fraction of the evidence may cause you to conclude that if anyone gets unfairly treated by the comparison, it is the flag-waving actor.

Nobody had to go to the show, and the ham actor had to eat. American taxpayers, however, have no choice on the foreign giveaways. They must pay and pay, not for a relatively harmless bit of humbuggery, but for a multi-billion pork barrel that has ominously undermined two main pillars of freedom, financial solvency and upright elections.

Does this charge startle you? Let's take a look at some of the evidence. The year

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was 1948. Congressman Jones was eating a late supper in his apartment. It had been a long day in the House. The Marshall Plan of foreign handouts had just been up for passage for the first time. The phone rang. Answering it, his wife called, "John, it's long distance for you from home."

At the other end of the line was Fred Smith, who had regularly raised the campaign funds for Jones' election victories. As he began to talk the pleasant expression on the Congressman's face faded.

"Hello, Jones, this is Fred Smith. I'm calling to tell you to get yourself another finance chairman for your campaign this year, because I'm all through working for you. In voting against the Marshall Plan today, you tried to beat me out of a big piece of business that was headed my way. I'm through with you."

"Wait a minute, Fred," interrupted the Congressman, "I didn't vote against the Marshall Plan. I voted for it. I just favored cutting it down several hundred millions so that it wouldn't be quite as big a load on our taxpayers.

"After all, our Republican campaigns have been based on the pledge that we would get national finances in order, haven't they? You helped me prepare those campaign pledges. We're in control now. Don't you expect me to try to keep those pledges?"

Now it was the finance chairman Smith who interrupted, "Listen to me, Jones. I'm not interested in your pious oratory about economy and cutting government spending. You recorded yourself in favor of a cut in the Marshall Plan. That reduction would have cut me personally out of between 25 and 35 thousand dollars of commissions each year, so I'm through with you. My friends and I aren't going to work again for anyone who takes our help and then works against our chances to make some dough. Good night."

A few months later came the 1948 general elections. My colleague, who had been a tower of strength to the Republicans in Congress, was defeated. In his place was elected an all-out New Dealer, whose votes indicate about as much interest in a balanced budget as a pig has in the amenities of Emily Post. Probably the commission-minded businessman is now content. With only a change in names for obvious reasons, the foregoing account records an incident that followed passage of the first Marshall Plan giveaway.

NOW LET US look at another revealing incident in the early years of so-called foreign aid. I have before me a booklet with this heading, "PENNSYLVANIA and the Marshall Plan." The subtitle reads, "How U.S. Dollars Spent for European Recovery Aid Business and Employment in Pennsylvania." The booklet was issued by the Office of Information, Economic Cooperation Administration. The inside of the 33-page booklet made pleasant reading for pocketbook patriots in Pennsylvania. Here are samples:

"FOUR MILLION TONS OF ECA-FINANCED GOODS MOVE THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA PORTS IN 27 MONTHS." "Workers numbering 33,800 received a year's employment in 1949 through Marshall Plan orders. . . ." "Firms in 92 Pennsylvania communities get $31,702,000 in ECA-financed orders in 4 months."

With eleven pages of the booklet devoted to naming communities and detailing the "benefits" they received from the Marshall Plan, the bureaucrat authors must have

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felt that LABOR was not adequately recognized. And so the last page begins with this heading, PENNSYLVANIA LABOR OFFICIALS COOPERATE. There followed a list of 30 or more Keystone State labor officials, carefully identified by their official titles in the CIO, AFL or United Mine Workers.

Now what is the significance in 1955 of these incidents from the early days of the now continuous foreign aid handouts? Perhaps part of the answer can be found in the vote on foreign aid in the House on June 30, 1955. Six Eastern industrial states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts surround New York City. From those states 98 Congressmen voted on foreign aid. By a margin of 8 to 1, they supported foreign aid handouts. Eighty-eight voted YES, only 10 voted NO.

For the rest of the country the vote on foreign aid was radically different. Elsewhere the vote was about three to two in favor of handouts, the totals showing that 185 Congressmen voted YES, while 118 voted NO.

Now if you ask several knowledgeable observers to interpret an important roll call vote in the House, you might get more than one explanation of the why and wherefores of the voting pattern. Nevertheless the record vote on this expenditure seems to present a clear picture. Taking the country outside of the New York area, the legislators from industrial districts generally voted YES. Also, "the Party can do no wrong" members from both parties favored the handout, and have done so from the beginning. The opposition votes came from districts where the influence of international spending contracts could only be a minor election factor.

AT FIRST GLANCE, the alliance of Big Business and Big Labor on the same side of an issue seems hard to understand. They are usually represented to the public as implacable enemies. But if a "fast buck" multiplied by millions can be siphoned out of the public treasury, apparently these traditional foes can put on double harness without trouble.

Big Business generally favors these giveaways for the very practical reasons made plain by the ECA booklet. International spending dollars have poured into its coffers as those funds are spread around in lush contracts. At the same time the Big Labor bosses have seen to it that both their personal power has been enhanced and union treasuries have been generously enriched in the giveaway process.

With these realities in mind, consider foreign aid from the standpoint of the average candidate for Congress in an industrialized district. If he is a Republican, he must have industry support, or he gets no financial backing from that "source." If he is a Democrat, he requires labor support both for finances and organization.

The upshot of this situation is that the incumbent seeking re-election or the nominee out to unseat him, be he Democrat or Republican, is cornered. To get the financial backing, he must have to conduct an effective campaign, he must be supported by the pocketbook patriots to whom international spending has become a permanent gravy train.

The consequences of this situation are manifold. Economically and morally, foreign spending takes us a long step towards the very Communism it is supposed to combat. Foreign aid consists of compulsory taking of the earnings and resources of taxpayers by political officials for pur-

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poses over which the American people have no effective say-so. Russia operates the same way except that there the seizure approaches the total of production. Here the seizure is much less by comparison, but the rate of its increase since 1939 could even make a Muscovite official bow in respect.

From the beginning of elective governments, the dream of every political boss has been to buy elections with the voter's own money. The early New Deal made an impressive sally in that direction with the WPA and other domestic spending schemes.

That drive for total political power by corruption failed. One reason was that the evil consequences were all around the people, plainly visible and easily understood. Another weakness was that then no organized interest with the present power of Big Business and Big Labor walked arm-in-arm with the Administration. Added to these factors was lusty and sustained opposition by the minority party. The combination compelled reform.

THE GLOBAL politics that masquerades under the name of "foreign aid" suffers from none of these New Deal weaknesses. The evil effects of foreign giveaways are too remote to be truly understood by the American electorate. Must we conclude that controlling elements in both parties have too big a stake in international spending to allow the lid to be opened on the mess of corruption these billions have brought about?

Of course to get away with all this, a powerful emotional appeal is required — one that will smother public indignation and resistance. It must be admitted that in this effort they have achieved a success that would delight Machiavelli. And payroll patriots have done it by creating the same sort of situation that baffled the intelligent patron in the vaudeville theater — a cunning implication that opponents lacked patriotism.

"You are willing to endanger our nation to save a few dollars" is a slur that causes the most stouthearted American to cringe. To be called "unpatriotic" is a smear that most people cannot take, no matter how fabricated and unfair the accusation.

"Patriotism" declared Samuel Johnson, "is the last refuge of a scoundrel." The ham actor who waved the flag to get bacon and beans was no scoundrel. But then he was a piker when compared to those who, for personal gain, propel America into totalitarianism behind glib talk about national security and Christian brotherhood.

Big Business, Big Labor and Big Government all find international spending to their liking. Certainly no one can deny that the giveaways have augmented the power of each member of this triumvirate.

Nor is it possible to deny that this power is acquired at the expense of government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

Mr. Buffett served four terms in Congress, as Republican Representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Nebraska. He retired in 1952 and returned to private business. In the last Presidential nominating campaign, Mr. Buffett was active on the Taft committee. He contributed to HUMAN EVENTS on December 8, 1954 "Again the Inflation Danger."

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